*Starting a Community Broadband Initiative

"Making Communities Better with Broadband"

*Where to Begin

*Start With Your Community
  *Current Needs
  *Demographics
  *Strengths and Challenges
  *Vision for the Future

*Where to Begin

*Evaluate the Current Landscape

  *Who are the existing service providers?
  *What type and level of services are available?
  *Are the services affordable to residents and businesses?
  *Understand the technology and where it is going.

*Where to Begin

*Identify Partners and Stakeholders
  *Service Providers, Hospitals, Schools, Businesses, First Responders, etc.
*Identify Decision Makers
*Seek Outside Help/Guidance
  *Federal/State/Local
  *Broadband success stories

*Identify Roadblocks

*Economic Conditions within Community

*Evolving Technology

*Industry Trends

*Legal and Regulatory Hurdles

*Remote Areas that are Costly to Serve

*Determine Route

*Who will own and operate the network?

*What technology should be deployed?

*How much will it cost to construct?

*What services and prices should be offered?

*Identify funding sources, both public and private.

*Funding Sources

*Internal Company or Organizational Funding

*State or Local Funding

*Private Banks

*RUS Financing (grants or loans)

*Hit The Road

*Network Construction – monitor timeline and costs

*Detours may be necessary and unavoidable

*Continue engaging partners and stakeholders

*Community – key to success

*21ˢᵗ Century Communities
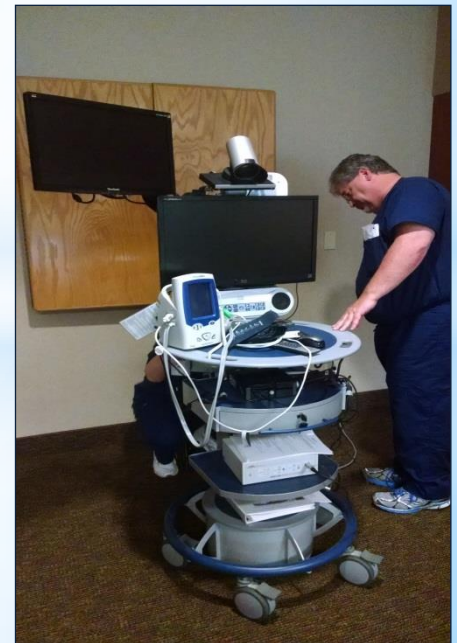
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*Questions